



News Release

For Immediate Release:

January 8, 2008

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UDOH Announces New Deputy Director

SALT LAKE CITY – The Utah Department of Health (UDOH) today announced the appointment of W. David Patton, Ph.D. to the position of deputy director. Dr. Patton comes to the UDOH from the University of Utah, where he served as director of the Center for Public Policy and Administration. He will oversee the department's financial management and audits, personnel, facilities, and its health information technology efforts, in addition to working on legislative issues.

"I am very pleased to welcome Dr. Patton to the senior management team at our department," said UDOH Executive Director Dr. David Sundwall. "We have a large and complex agency and Dave brings with him a wealth of management and administrative skills and experience. I am certain he will help us become more efficient and effective as we continue our work to protect the public's health and provide services for those most in need – a critical mission during these challenging times."

Patton has strong state government credentials, having most recently led Gov. Jon Huntsman's Gubernatorial Transition Team. He was also the first Executive Director of the Utah Policy Partnership – the Governor's policy and governance advisory group.

"I look forward to joining the UDOH and using my experience to contribute to the administration and leadership team responsible for making policy decisions that help ensure a healthy population in our state," Patton said.

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Dr. Patton holds degrees in economics and political science, an MPA from Brigham Young University, and a PhD from the University of Utah. He has worked professionally in the private sector and with state and local governments, and has work experience ranging from agency management to labor negotiations and policy analysis.

Dr. Patton will assume his new duties on Monday, January 12, 2009; he replaces Allen Korhonen who left the department last month after more than five years on the job.

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The mission of the Utah Department of Health is to protect the public's health through preventing avoidable illness, injury, disability and premature death, assuring access to affordable, quality health care, and promoting healthy lifestyles.